

Dear FCC,

I'm writing in regards to Docket #04-405, specifically relating to BellSouth's desire to create an effective monopoly on DSL broadband service.

As a customer of an independent broadband ISP, I must strongly protest the concept of being forced to purchase broadband DSL only from the telephone company's ISP.

Telephone service in my area is provided by SBC, who maintains a fairly decent POTS telephone service. Their DSL/internet provider side is poorly maintained, has terrible customer support, their network is inadequate to the demands placed upon it, and the services provided do not meet my needs.

Fortunately, I have choice in regards to which DSL company I purchase service from. I choose to have service from Sonic.net, an independent company. While SBC provides the telephone line to my residence and the DSL service on top of that line, Sonic.net takes charge of my connection at SBC's Central Office and routes my data traffic over their network.

The result? Excellent data service from Sonic.net, competitive pricing, responsive customer support staff, and a well-maintained network.

If BellSouth's request is granted, and they are given an effective monopoly over DSL service in their coverage area, it would make it significantly more expensive for me to subscribe to an independent broadband company like Sonic.net. Indeed, if the telephone company decides that they simply don't want to allow other broadband providers access to their lines, they can squelch all competition.

Having competition in the broadband market leads to better pricing, better customer service, and better network performance. Eliminating this competition and granting telephone companies a DSL monopoly will hurt consumers and slow the adoption of broadband internet service nationwide.

I urge you to reject BellSouth's petition and encourage growth, competition, and better service from broadband providers to better provide service to customers.

Sincerely,  
Pete Stephenson  
HeyPete.com